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Opposition to Essex Pastures

Dear Marie Rodgers,

I have just completed reading the long list of letters sent by fellow townsmen against the construction of Essex Pastures (an ironic name as the project intends to replace the existing pastures with a small city - a better name would be "Essex Metropolis"). As others have so eloquently expressed all the reasons that this project is out-of-character with all that the town represents, including pressure on local resources and environmental impact, I will "ditto" their thoughts.

I live 6 Essex Road at the intersection of Routes 133 and 1A and am quite aware of traffic flow, noise, and pollution. An additional 380 cars going back-and-forth through the intersection multiple times a day will negatively impact the quality of life for those of us who live in the immediate area-- as well as cause accidents as impatient drivers get angry at the snarl of traffic in front of them. As the line to get through the intersection lengthens, exhaust pollution will increase and motorcycle and large truck engines will rev for longer periods. A traffic signal at this location will only make the noise and pollution worse. It is already becoming increasingly challenging to exit and enter our driveway which would become impossible with a long line of cars blocking the driveway.

(As an aside, I consider it quite arrogant of the project planners to suggest putting a light where WE live rather than where their project is. Why should we carry the burden of increased traffic due to their project's cars? Why can't the backup take place on their project's roads rather than at the 133/1A intersection?)

Something not mentioned in any of the letters or discussion is that of road safety for bicycles. At a time that forward-thinking people are finding ways to reduce vehicle pollution, the Town of Ipswich is considering approving a project that would add more cars. Ipswich's roads are dangerous for bike riders. The traffic flow at the 133/1A intersection and the center of town is scary. There are no bike lanes and riders frequently need to use the sidewalks to duck traffic. Why can't the Select Board and ZBA take a lesson from locales such as San Francisco, a leader in bicycle safety infrastructure, where, for example, parking on side streets is being removed for bicycle lanes? Why is Ipswich seriously considering placing an oversized project so close to a dense traffic area? Instead, we should be thinking of ways to make the roads in congested areas of town safer rather than more dangerous. Let's let increased traffic come from tourists who want to bring money to our area rather than an unwanted housing project in the wrong place. Perhaps Mr. Bruni would consider donating his property to the Trustees of Reservations rather than pocketing the profit and destroying the town's character and his family's good name.

Sincerely,

Jacki Kronenberg